

week. They are going to be paying Federal employees to do absolutely nothing in order to accomplish their radical right agenda to cut Medicare and raise the premiums on every senior, on every person with disabilities come January 1.

It is wrong to ask American taxpayers to pay our Federal employees to do absolutely nothing just to satisfy this agenda of power of NEWT GINGRICH.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, the Washington Post was just right this morning when they said the real issue is balancing the budget, and this is the time to decide.

Are we going to continue adding to a \$5 trillion debt that smothers the economy and drives up interest rates and imperils our children's future or do we want to exercise some fiscal responsibility, trim the growth in spending and cut taxes?

The choice to me is clear. We cannot continue business as usual. We are going to balance this budget. That is what we were sent here to do.

I still have some hope, perhaps naive, that the President will stop his obstruction and begin to work with us. It was only a month or so ago that the President again conceded that the balance budget goal is necessary and essential. It was only a few weeks ago that he confessed that he had raised taxes too much.

If the President believes his own words have any meaning at all, he ought to work with us to cut taxes and cut spending and, yes, let us balance the budget. Today would be a good time for the President to start to work with us to do just that.

TIME TO REWRITE THE BUDGET

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we all know that NEWT GINGRICH has a doctorate in history but over the past few days he may have earned a doctorate in revisionist history as well.

The Speaker has tried to blame President Clinton for the Government shutdown but he has been planning this for months.

Just look at what he said in April and in September.

In April: "The President will veto a number of things and we'll then put them all on the debt ceiling and then he'll decide how big a crisis he wants."

In September: "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days, not at this time."

"I don't care." That is what Speaker GINGRICH says. Well, the President does care. He cares about our seniors, he

cares about our students, and he cares about our environment. That is why he will not accept this budgetary blackmail.

Madam Speaker, I say to the Speaker, if you want the President to sign your budget, do not rewrite history, rewrite your budget.

KEEPING THE BALANCED-BUDGET PROMISE

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, President Clinton has said that he would present a 5-year, a 10-year, an 8-year, and a 7-year balanced budget plan.

Obviously, the President has a problem being committed to one particular course of action. It is really difficult to know where he stands.

Well, the American people do not need this kind of indecision. The national debt stands at \$4,985,913,011,032.65. Republicans in Congress are not backing down from the promise we made a few months ago, to balance the budget and give our children a brighter future.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the budget, the President has offered no leadership, has given us no plan, and has left us no choice.

PUTTING FEDERAL AGENCIES IN THEIR PLACE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the last I heard we are still a participatory democracy with a Constitution, with rights, and the Constitution is supposed to protect our citizens.

Well, all of America has been up in arms over Waco and Ruby Ridge and all these Federal agencies came before the Congress and testified these were big mistakes, they would never let it happen again.

Ladies and gentlemen, the FBI wants the unusual authority, expanded authority to simultaneously monitor 1 out of 100 calls if you happen to live in a high-crime area.

Beam me up here, Madam Speaker. We have let the IRS, ATF, and FBI get in our kitchen. Now we are going to put them in our bedroom, in our businesses?

What is going on here, Congress? Big brother is one thing. But this is starting to sound like the KGB.

Do your job, Congress. The American people want you to put these agencies in their place.

STOP THE MADNESS

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, yesterday the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] came to the House floor and declared how mad she was that this could happen, that the President and Congress could not get together and that Federal employees may be furloughed.

Let me tell you what makes me mad. It even makes me sick, that in my lifetime, since 1969, this Government has run up 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and our children are going to have to pay it. And almost everything they earn is going to go to the Government in the future.

Stop the madness, Mr. President. Balance the budget. That is all we have to do is come together this week for our children and their future.

TIME FOR REPUBLICANS TO DO THEIR WORK

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Madam Speaker, let me just get one thing clear. This has nothing to do with balancing the budget. The budget that the Republicans are talking about increases Pentagon spending by \$63 billion more than they asked for, and gives a \$245 billion tax break to the wealthy. That is not balancing the budget.

It is very simple. What this is about is that the Republicans have not been able to get their job done. In the first year they have been in control, instead of playing a PR game, they should have been toiling in the field. This is a crisis because they have not managed to get the appropriations bills sent to the President. The bill sent to the President for the continuing resolution and the debt increase was a Christmas tree. It was hung, hung with all sorts of extremist things, like gutting environmental laws and raising the Medicare premiums. As usual, it seems that the extremists are in control.

This is a time for common sense and fiscal responsibility. It is time for a sensible and responsible budget. It is time the Republicans did their work.

□ 1030

AMERICA IS TIRED OF PLAYING MAKE BELIEVE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, first, Bill Clinton as a candidate said he would balance the budget in 5 years. Then he got into office. He said it is not really important to balance the budget. Then he said maybe we can do it in 10 years, then maybe we could do it in 7 years. Only his figures did not balance.